

## CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1 1. A method of purchasing products and services over a network comprising  
2 the steps of:  
3 submitting a Request for Quotation (RFQ) with at least one attribute  
4 over the network;  
5 receiving at least one bid in response to the RFQ over the network,  
6 each of the at least one bid having at least one attribute value associated  
7 therewith;  
8 creating a graphical visual interface based on a Cartesian coordinate  
9 system, the graphical user interface showing a relationship in a graphical  
10 format between the at least one attribute and the at least one bid and associated  
11 attribute value in a single display; and  
12 displaying information pertinent to a selected bid of the at least one bid.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical format are sell bid lines  
2 representative of selected connected attribute values of the at least one bid.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information is one of a general  
2 information and detailed information related to the at least one bid.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:  
2 selecting a portion of a selected sell bid line created from connected  
3 attribute values of the at least one bid; and



4 displaying the tagged at least one sell bid line on the graphical visual  
5 interface after a selected filtering operation.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the graphical information is at least one  
2 attribute value associated with the tagged at least one sell bid line.

1 13. The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:  
2 untagging the at least one sell bid line; and  
3 removing the untagged at least one sell bid line from the graphical  
4 visual interface in response to the selected filtering operation.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying a count of  
2 bid lines associated with the at least one bid, the count being displayed on the  
3 graphical visual interface.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of continuously  
2 counting the number of bid lines and displaying the counted number of bid lines  
3 in the graphical visual interface.

1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of enlarging or  
2 reducing a portion of the graphical visual interface.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the enlarging or reducing steps show  
2 portions of sell bid lines representative of connected attribute values of the at  
3 least one bid.

1 18. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of scrolling the  
2 graphical visual interface in a desired direction.

1 19. A method of purchasing products and services over a network comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 submitting a Request for Quotation (RFQ) with at least one attribute  
4 over the network;

5 receiving at least one bid in response to the RFQ over the network,  
6 each of the at least one bid having at least one attribute value associated  
7 therewith;

8 creating a graphical visual interface based on a Cartesian coordinate  
9 system, the graphical user interface showing a relationship in a graphical  
10 format between the at least one attribute and the at least one bid and associated  
11 attribute value in a single display, wherein the graphical format are sell bid lines  
12 created from connected attribute values of the at least one bid; and

13 tagging at least one sell bid line of the sell bid lines, wherein the tagged  
14 at least one sell bid line remains displayed on the graphical visual interface after  
15 a selected filtering operation.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

2 untagging the at least one sell bid line; and

3 removing the untagged at least one sell bid line from the graphical  
4 visual interface in response to the selected filtering operation.

1 21. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of providing  
2 information pertinent to the tagged at least one sell bid line.

1 22. A system for purchasing products and services over a network  
2 comprising:

3 means for submitting a Request for Quotation (RFQ) with at least one  
4 attribute over the network;

5 means for receiving at least one bid in response to the RFQ over the  
6 network, each of the at least one bid having at least one attribute value; and

7 means for creating a graphical visual interface based on a Cartesian  
8 coordinate system showing a relationship in a graphical format between the at  
9 least one attribute and corresponding attribute value in a single display; and

10 means for providing information associated with a selected bid of the at  
11 least one bid.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the information is one of general  
2 information, detailed information and attribute information.

1 24. The system of claim 23, further comprising:

2 means for selecting a portion of a selected sell bid line representative of  
3 connected attribute values of the at least one bid; and

4 means for retrieving the general or detailed information from a  
5 database, the general or detailed information being pertinent to the selected sell  
6 bid line.

1 25. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

2 means for creating a display separate from the graphical visual  
3 interface; and

4 means for displaying the detailed information in the display.

1 26. The system of claim 22, further comprising means for tagging at least one  
2 sell bid line, created from connected attribute values of the at least one bid, the  
3 tagged at least one sell bid line being displayed on the graphical visual interface  
4 after a selected filtering operation.

1 27. The system of claim 22, further comprising:  
2 means for counting bid lines created from connected attribute values of  
3 the at least one bid; and  
4 means for displaying the counted bid lines.

1 28. The system of claim 22, further comprising means for enlarging or reducing  
2 a portion of the graphical visual interface.

1 29. The system of claim 22, further comprising means for scrolling the  
2 graphical visual interface in a desired direction.

1 30. A machine readable medium containing code for purchasing products and  
2 services over a network, the code implementing the steps of:  
3 submitting a Request for Quotation (RFQ) with at least one attribute  
4 over the network;  
5 receiving at least one bid in response to the RFQ over the network,  
6 each of the at least one bid having at least one attribute value;  
7 creating a graphical visual interface based on a Cartesian coordinate  
8 system, the graphical user interface showing a relationship in a graphical  
9 format between the at least one attribute and the at least one bid and associated  
10 attribute value in a single display; and  
11 providing information associated with a selected bid of the at least one  
bid.

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